



The child is now demonstrating that he/she can hear and write words with initial, medial and final sounds. He/she is able to construct phrases convey a message.

At this stage the child is using his/her phonic knowledge to write words in ways which march their spoken sounds. He/she can also write some irregular common words. He/she can write sentences which can be read by him/herself and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

on sata day I
Went to the
met fo doom
I swa na na PLAI wiv sa
I Wen on the side

This writing meets the criteria for the Early Learning Goal in Writing which is the expected level for children at the end of Reception.

Ways in which you could help your child with writing at home.

Provide lots of attractive writing equipment, e.g. fancy pens, chalk, crayons and pencils, paper and notebooks etc. will help to inspire them to mark make and write.

Try to encourage them to writing for a purpose following their interests —label their buildings or their pictures, make signs, postcards, shopping lists, cards or invitations.

Encourage them to read back their writing to you. Write down the things your child says to support their developing understanding that what they say can be written down and then read and understood by someone else.

Encourage them to sound words out as much as possible, even if they can only write the initial sound or a couple of sounds in a word.

Gently show your child the letter formation—this is tricky for young children to grasp. They need to know where to start the letter and to write in a cursive script. We begin by teaching the children to write in lower-case letters and only introduce capital letters for the beginning of names and then at the beginning of a sentence. It is useful if you can follow this at home too.

Encourage your child to have a go at writing and praise any attempts at writing. Above all... Make writing fun!

Developing Fine and Gross Motor Skills

It is important that children have access to a range of activities that will develop muscles in their hands and wrist which will make writing easier. Any of these fun activities will help:

- cutting out pictures from catalogues, cutting out their own pictures or along different wavy, straight or zig zag lines.
- Using modelling materials such as clay, plasticine, playdough, sand
- Painting and printing
- Threading beads, pasta, buttons to a timer—can they beat their own score?
- Use water pistols to reach a target or paint outdoor bricks with water and brushes or chalks, paint in the bath.
- Fix lego, screw and unscrew lids, post pennies in a box, sprinkle seeds.
- Fold paper to make shapes, envelopes
- Wash walls with soap and brushes
- Paint with mops
- Play swing ball with a pair of tights
- Create lolly stick race tracks
- Make tracks with bikes through shaving foam
- Dig in sand and soil
- Sweep up leaves or shaving foam
- Draw circles onto large sheets of paper
- Use large rollers or brushes
- Pulling their bodies up on ropes/climbing wall
- Ribbon/scarf twirling
- Sticking and pulling plungers from vertical and horizontal surfaces.